

To: Clients of URMCLabs

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Re: Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing – Method Change

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Recent circumstances require that we make a method change when performing antimicrobial susceptibility testing against *Enterobacteriaceae* (e.g., *E. coli*, *Klebsiella*, *Enterobacter*, etc). Unfortunately, this change will delay reporting of results for some drugs against these organisms. See below for details.

1. An immediate FDA-recall has been issued for the Piperacillin/Tazobactam component of our automated susceptibility test cards when testing Pip/Tazo against *E. coli* and Pip/Tazo-resistant *Klebsiella*. This FDA-recall requires that we test these organisms for susceptibility to Pip/Tazo by a different method.
2. Implementation of new interpretive criteria for carbapenems (Ertapenem, Imipenem, Meropenem) against *Enterobacteriaceae* using our automated susceptibility test system will be delayed for an unknown extended time until the manufacturer redesigns susceptibility test cards and receives regulatory approval from FDA. Timely implementation of these new criteria requires that we test carbapenems by a different method.

Until the above issues are corrected by the vendor/manufacturer of our automated susceptibility test system:

1. the following drugs will be tested against *Enterobacteriaceae* by our automated susceptibility testing system –
 - a. amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin, ampicillin, ampicillin/sulbactam, aztreonam, cefazolin, cefepime, ceftriaxone, ciprofloxacin, moxifloxacin, nitrofurantoin, tigecycline, and trim/sulfa
 - b. results for these drugs will typically be reported the same day as organism identification. For urine isolates, no other testing will be routinely performed; specific provider requests for additional testing of urine isolates will be honored.
2. the additional following drugs will be routinely tested against *Enterobacteriaceae* (from specimens other than urine) by manual agar disk diffusion method
 - a. piperacillin/tazobactam, ertapenem, imipenem, meropenem
 - b. results for these drugs will typically be reported the day after organism identification

Note that automated susceptibility testing of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Acinetobacter* and other non-fermentative gram-negative bacilli is not affected by the above issues.

For further information, contact a Bacteriology Supervisor at 275-7801.